

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

MARCUS TO SPEND YEAR IN AFRICA

CCSA Secretary To Teach In Ghana Seminary

The Reverend Chester L. Marcus, Public Relations Secretary in the Cleveland Office of the Council for Christian Social Attention, has been invited by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana and the Board of International Missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church to spend a year in the newly independent nation which is already playing an important role in African affairs.

Mr. Marcus will teach in the Theological Seminary at Peki-Blengo, conduct conferences for pastors and lay people at various centers under the Ghanaian Church, and render such other special ministries as the various groups and churches may request. He will thus strengthen the ties between the United Church of Christ and a body with which he has been related through a missionary program involving agricultural projects as well as hospitals, schools, and the more usual activities associated with a vigorous church.

In accepting this mission, Mr. Marcus will interpret to Christians in Africa something of the life of the church in America, particularly in its concern for evangelism, Christian education, and Christian social action. It is hoped that this will in turn assist the Ghanaian churches to discover increasingly effective ways of witnessing to the gospel's relevance to all of life. At the same time, he will have opportunity to secure fresh perspectives regarding the Christian faith and the life of the church through his relationships with Christians living and working in a culture different from ours. It is expected, too, that by meeting leaders of social and political life as well as through his associations in the churches he will secure a fuller understanding of the social and economic changes which are taking place in that part of the world and

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Industrial Evangelism In Japan by Alfred Schmalz

In Osaka, Japan, an Industrial Evangelism program, initiated about five years ago under the leadership of Rev. Hisashi Mitsui, pastor of the historic Naniwa Congregational Church, sets an interesting pattern for what may well grow into an effective relationship between the churches of Japan and the labor unions.

Mr. Mitsui, with whom I visited in his church study in May, told me how the project had begun. About 1954 a small group of pastors and missionaries met regularly, to study their local industrial situation. Occasionally labor union representatives, business men, and political leaders would meet with them. They were concerned with the separation of the church from man's daily life and work. A few years later, with the help of the Reverend Masao Takenaka, who had re-

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Strengthening the Church's Witness And Mission

Suggestions for February, Our Month of Emphasis

The Christian Church, when it is true to its nature, can never be preoccupied with its own institutional prosperity or health. It is conscious of its Call to be the "people of God"—God's "pilgrim" people on the move in response to His leading. It is concerned with its Witness to the whole of God's purpose for mankind. It seeks to fulfill its Mission as the instrument of His will.

This is true of the great World Church as the universal fellowship of Christians. It is true of the United Church of Christ as a part of the World Church. It is the nature and destiny of the local congregation where the Holy Catholic Church becomes manifest.

As such it will seek to serve the community in which it has been placed—local, national, world-wide. It will seek to discern God's judgment upon the life of groups and society as a whole. It will attack the places where injustice is done and challenge the unbrotherly behavior of man to man. It will wrestle with the problems of national and international affairs and work for a better world community.

What are some of the ways in which your congregation can have a part in this world movement of Christian response to the task of God has given us?

● **Bring the needs of all the world's people before themselves and before God in meaningful worship.** This is something that a consecrated pastor and an alert congregation will do steadily, all year round. But perhaps in February prayers, litanies, and sermons can lift up in a special way our involvement in and concern for all peoples, for our national life, for the common good. Some pastors will on these four Sundays preach a series of the sermons on the **Call to Christian Action in Society**—on what the Gospel does for us

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Strengthening The Church

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and asks us to do regarding the world of nations, our American culture, race relations, and political life, with perhaps an introductory sermon on January 31 as to the relation of God's action to man's response and, within that response, the relation of the evangelistic witness to the social.

• **Study the Call to Christian Action in Society, adopted by the General Synod of the United Church.** Don't stop with a series of sermons on the **Call**. Use portions of it as unison or responsive readings on appropriate Sundays, not forgetting Race Relations Sunday. Then go on. If you can't arrange after-church discussions, or before-church adult class study, of the **Call**, develop some programs at a time when the members of the church can and will "dig into" it until they "dig" it! Bring in the experts to provide background on international tensions or farm policy or industrial relations. Or put the September issue of **SOCIAL Action** into the hands of a few leaders, with its interpretative comments and suggestions for study. Then get ready to work at the goals which it sets forth.

• **Support the Nationwide Program of Education and Action for Peace.** If you have not as yet planned some good programs on international affairs, take a fresh look at the suggestions offered by Herman Reissig in our October issue. Watch for interdenominational training sessions in your community. If you feel you can deal with only one major issue at a time, don't neglect this one.

• **Make use of the Manual for Christian Social Action and other resources** suggested by the Council for Christian Social Action, to study the needs of your community and to develop a program of action to meet those needs. If you have not made an inventory of your available resources of leadership, or taken an every member canvass of the interests and service capacities of your congregation, now is a good time to do so. Does your church's life and influence stop at the front door? How many of your members are, or are not, carrying their share in community service agencies, in farm and labor organizations, in business or professional associations?

• **Develop an intelligent concern and capacity to act on important national and international problems** with the help of **SOCIAL ACTION**, **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**, and other publications. One church posts each issue of **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY** on its inside

bulletin board. Many order one or two dozen copies for their key leaders. A growing number have a display rack for **SOCIAL ACTION** in the narthex or the church library. Use popular leaflets, like **Why Does the Church Concern Itself** (\$2.50 per 100), **The Bible and Race** (\$3 per 100), or **Mr. Asia and Mr. U.S.A. Talk It Over** (\$3 per 100). And when the **United Church Herald** carries a good article on an important current issue, the Committee on Christian Social Action sees that the word gets around.

• **Make it possible for representatives of your church to attend seminars, conferences, and institutes conducted by the Council for Christian Social Action.** A good beginning is during the Month of Emphasis itself, on February 16 to 19 when the CCSA cooperates with the social action agencies of over a dozen Protestant denominations and the Washington Office of the National Council of Churches in Churchmen's Washington Seminar on Your Government and You. Five regional Christian Social Action Institutes are planned for next summer, where members of the social action committee and leaders in church organizations can get valuable help in developing more effective programs of education and action. Some may wish to join, or help the pastor to join, the Mexican Seminar, the Around-the-World Seminar, or a study tour of Hawaii. See next month's **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY** for details. Watch the "Social Action Calendar" every month for an up-to-date listing.

• **Cooperate with the committees on Christian social action in your association, synod, or conference;** with local and state councils of churches; with other agencies which work for common ends. Many problems in their very nature are regional or local, and can only be dealt with as local churches work on them. Such action is most effective when it is cooperative and community-wide. Some of the most successful social action committees make their members responsible to keep in touch with various agencies working on community welfare, race relations, civic life, etc.

• **Encourage the members of your church to make a special gift so that the denomination's program, too, may be more effective.** CCSA has pledged \$9,000 per year for three years to the Minneapolis Fair Housing Project. Contributions from Congregational Christians designated for this "authorized special" or for the general work of CSA should be sent to the New York office. Evangelical and Reformed gifts may be channeled through the Cleveland office.

Industrial Evangelism

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turned from graduate study at the Yale Divinity School to join the theological faculty at Doshisha University, Kyoto, a program of internship for seminary students interested in this program was set up. Five students expressed an interest, and were assigned to particular groups of industrial workers. They met twice a month to discuss their common problems.

The first of these students graduated from seminary in 1958. With Rev. S. Tsujinaka, minister of an Osaka church as my guide, whom I had first come to know at Yale, I visited the industrial workers' area, and saw the modest home which two of these industrial evangelists occupy, as they carry on their ministry. Their primary responsibility is to relate to labor union leadership, but they also organize study and worship groups for all who will come.

This program is not yet a project of the United Church of Christ in Japan, but is financed through the efforts of the local committee.

I inquired of Mr. Mitsui what the ministers hoped to accomplish. He said that they hoped to communicate to labor leaders the "unselfishness of Christianity," which would give them a relationship of genuine service to the workers in the unions. As for the workers themselves, they need a sense of "community and fellowship," Mr. Mitsui said, to give their lives meaning and fullness.

At present this Industrial Evangelism program appears to be essentially "personal," in that it hopes to change individuals. There is not a direct concern with what we call "the social gospel," namely with housing, wages, working conditions, health. This may well come. But it can hardly come here, however, until it also comes more widely in the whole of the Japanese church, as it has not yet come. Meantime, this particular project, unique, experimental, and a useful example for the American scene, is an exciting promise for the future.

The Reverend Alfred Schmalz, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Darien, Connecticut, is a member of the International Relations Committee of the Council for Christian Social Action. He was at one time the Associate Director of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches.

The February issue of **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY** will be designed for wide distribution in the churches at the special rate of \$5 per 100 copies. Requests for this and other resource materials or for counsel in developing a special action program may be directed to either office.

NEWS FROM SYNODS AND CONFERENCES

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY is not committed to the principle of "equal time." However, we have been running rather heavily to news from Congregational Christian circles the last few issues. So, it is good to have word from the "E & R" editor of the United Church.

South Illinois Synod, for example, sponsored a Spring Tour to the Illinois State Capital on May 13. Ninety persons from various parts of the synod traveled by bus to Springfield. Here they met representatives and senators from their districts, watched the house in session. Since there is no Evangelical and Reformed Church in the city, lunch was served to the group at the Methodist church. Here they heard addresses by representatives of the Illinois Council of Churches and by a lobbyist for the East St. Louis Manufacturing Association. Visits to Lincoln's home and Lincoln's tomb were included, as is fitting in a citizen-ship seminar in Illinois.

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Mercersburg Synod committee on Christian Social Action has been working on the questions of H-bomb Testing, Housing, and Racial Integration. On February 21 it plans to hold a synod-wide rally featuring Herman Reissig on International Affairs, to be followed with a series of smaller area workshops to be held by Nelsen Schlegel.

Other synods zoned to Christian social action are also developing their field plans. North Illinois Synod is "routing" CCSA Director Ray Gibbons November 9-13. Potomac Synod is planning a series of institutes on international relations with Herman Reissig, November 15-20.

In February, the Indiana Conference is cooperating with Michigan-Indiana and South Indiana Synods in a series of workshops on the theme "Christian Principles and Industrial Relations" in eight centers in Indiana. Michigan-Indiana Synod is sponsoring a similar series in Michigan. Hubert Klemme will be the CCSA staff resource in both states.

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West New York Synod's committee on Christian social action holds four regular meetings during the year. These are open, and churches are urged to send representatives for one to 1½ hours educational program followed by 1½ to two hours of committee planning. At its June meeting it organized for the year, and appointed each member as a resource person in a specialized field, such as, Religion and Public Education, Consumer Attitudes toward Farmers, Ethical Prac-

tices in Church Groups, Labor-Management Relations, etc. It authorized each resource specialist to spend up to \$4 of the committee's funds for material.

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The Maine Conference committee reports a number of significant activities. Last winter it explored ways of cooperating with the Christian Education committee and the state Pilgrim Fellowship. The Conference luncheon featured Juvenile Delinquency. It supported an interdenominational state Legislative Seminar, and appointed a delegation to attend hearings in Augusta on appropriations for the Boys' School.

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In Colorado, the Conference committee is developing suggested speakers and panels to offer to churches desiring help on capital punishment, migratory labor, open housing, nuclear bomb testing, UN and UNESCO, Christian Vocation and other major concerns.

The February issue of Social Action will be a special number marking the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the magazine. The theme of the articles is "Social Action and the Mission of the Church."

Copies of this issue (25 cents each, 10 to 99 copies at 20 cents each, or \$15 per hundred) as well as the Silver Anniversary Leaflet (free) and the February issue of Christian Community (\$5 per 100) may be ordered for use in the Month of Emphasis on Christian Social Action.

WASHINGTON SEMINAR FEATURES LEADERS IN CHURCH AND STATE

Protestantism and the general public have learned to look for high quality leadership in the annual interdenominational Churchmen's Washington Seminar. This year's program, to be held February 16 to 19, 1960 is no exception.

Among the many distinguished speakers already booked for the occasion are the Honorable Paul G. Hoffman, Managing Director of the United Nations Special Fund, and the Reverend Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, Associate General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. They will speak on "Church and State: Partners for Peace."

Delegates from more than 15 denominations and cooperating groups will meet their Congressmen, attend sessions at the State Department and at other government agencies, and hear notable newspaper correspondents present a critique of United States foreign policy. Representatives of the major parties will present the election issues before the nation in 1960, with lively discussion to follow.

If you wish to attend write to either CCSA office, enclosing \$12 for your registration fee which includes four seminar meals. Since every denomination is limited in its attendance, it would be well to write soon.

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the role of the church in this changing order.

Mr. Marcus, a native of Mississippi, is a graduate of Alcorn A and M College in Mississippi and of the Theological Seminary of Lincoln University, Pennsylvania. During his student days at Lincoln, the present Prime Minister of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, graduated from that school. Following his ordination in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Mr. Marcus served the Washington Street Presbyterian Church in Reading, Pennsylvania. His leadership in community agencies and human relations led to his call to his present denominational position in 1954. During his five and one half years with the CCSA he has been welcomed in many churches, institutes, conferences, and special groups as preacher, teacher, counsellor, and friend.

The Council for Christian Social Ac-

tion is pleased to make a colleague available for special service beyond the boundaries of our own country and denomination. This is perhaps the first time that a mission board has "borrowed" a staff colleague from a Christian social action agency for so long a period of time. We welcome the readiness of the Board of International Missions to seek persons without regard to race, for the important tasks in its many fields. If our experience and insights, partial though they be, can be made available to a "younger" church in a "new" nation, this is as it should be. On the other hand, in releasing him for this term of service, CCSA does so in the confidence that he will bring back to his work in this country and in our church the advantages of broadened experience and fresh insight into the social and spiritual needs and opportunities of our time.

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

November 6—World Community Day.
 January 17-23—Church and Economic Life Week.
 January 30-31—Council for Christian Social Action, Buck Hill Falls, Pa.
 February—United Church of Christ Month of Emphasis on Christian Social Action.
 February 14—Race Relations Sunday.
 February 16-19—Churchmen's Washington Seminar.
 April 26-28 — United Church of Christ Washington Seminar.

STUDY MINISTRY TO AGING

A consultation on "The Church's Responsibility for the Aging" will bring together thirty leaders from fourteen agencies in the United Church in Cleveland, November 4-6. It will examine present programs for the aging and work toward the coordination of future efforts by the several boards and agencies.

Dr. William C. Fitch, of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare will keynote the meeting, with an address on "Understanding and Meeting the Needs of Our Older Citizens." Discussions of housing and retirement programs will be led by Congressman Byron L. Johnson, of Colorado, and Miss Ollie Randall, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee on Aging. Rev. William Wimer, of the Board of Christian Education staff, will lead two sessions on action proposals.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER, 1959

News and Program Service of the
 Council for Christian Social Action
 of the United Church of Christ

Ray Gibbons, Director

Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscriptions, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, \$2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

INTRODUCING NEW TOOLS

For a long time the Council for Christian Social Action has been aware of the need for a variety of resources to serve the various purposes of different groups and churches. One type of tool desired by many groups is a selection of popular discussions of current problems which can be distributed from church literature racks, placed on library tables, or used in programs sponsored by organizations or church fellowship evenings.

The first two items in this new series have been printed and are now available, at five cents each, \$3 per hundred.

One of these is a leaflet on *The Bible and Race*, prepared by Chester Marcus. It states simply and understandingly what the Scriptures say—and what they do not say—that bears on this area of human relationships. It is already enjoying a broad appeal and may help someone in your church to clarify his thinking on a

topic that has many people puzzled.

The second is an imaginary conversation on United States economic aid to less developed countries. Written by Herman Reissig of the CCSA staff, it bears the title, *Mr. Asia and Mr. U.S.A. Talk it Over*. Its lively presentation of the significant facts and principles involved in this question make this "just the thing" for groups that like to dress up their educational programs through the use of skits or radio dialogues. It could be read by two members of a group; they might memorize it; or they might adapt and enlarge it.

In addition to these, CCSA still carries the leaflet, *Why Does the Church Concern Itself with Social Problems?* (\$2.50 per 100). This in popular narrative form answers the person who wonders what business the church has "messaging around" with housing, race, and the UN!

PENNSYLVANIA PASTOR FACES INDUSTRIAL ISSUES

Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church, Duquesne, and Mt. Zion Church, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, conducted a school for Christian living which included four Sunday evenings on "The Church and the Problems of an Industrial Area." Dr. Gabriel Fackre led discussions on such topics as Mill City Life Today, Automation, Unemployment, Creative Use of Leisure, the Pensioner, Family Life, the Worker and his Union, Depersonalization—and the responsibility of the Christian and the Church in these areas. A film, "The Inner-City" showing the work of the inner city Protestant parish of Cleveland was shown at one of the sessions.

Ministers of ten churches in the area joined in issuing a statement on the steel strike which was released and widely made known in the community. This said in part:

The present strike and prolonged shutdown deeply troubles us. We are not competent to pass public judgment on the merits of the union's requests or the companies' proposals. However, there are some things we do know. We know of the suffering of hundreds of families in our congregations now deprived for over ten weeks of regular means of livelihood with many on relief and dependent on free food distribution. We know that the people of an industrial community feel a sense of helplessness

about their ability to control the present march of events. We know that there is a growing fear among the people that the principle of unionism itself has been marked out for testing in this conflict. We know that the interests of the entire country as well as the welfare of those we serve is at stake in this strike.

We therefore urge:

The top leadership of management and union to understand that their positions of power are vocations under God to be exercised in obedience to His will, and that they enter with fresh seriousness and good faith into the negotiations.

That the spirit of bitterness and mutual recrimination be utterly disavowed.

That all possible methods of conciliation, both public and private, be thoroughly explored.

We affirm our belief in the principle of collective bargaining and urge:

Management to avoid any action that could be construed as jeopardizing this right.

All union members to take a more active and vocal part in the affairs of their locals and in the processes of negotiation.

Further, to the people of our community, we offer ourselves as a clearing-house for odd jobs for the duration of the strike. People having jobs they wish done, or those wishing to secure such are invited to contact any of the undersigned.

Most of all we call upon Christians everywhere to pray for a speedy end to and a just settlement of this strike.